

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 22 March 2024 at The Venue, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln

Apologies

Margaret Hatfield

Present

Committee: David Brook, Tony Butcher, Sue Firth, Richard Hall, Helen Hancocks, John Rossington, Philip Stonehouse

Members: Linda Hall, Maureen Frodsham, Paul Frodsham, David Howard, Jonathan Killin, Paul Hancocks, Cathryn Hall, Imogen Arnold, Ivor Davey, Les Dicker, Maureen Geddis, Jane Bullimore, Ann Francis, Andrew Francis, Kathryn Mullen, Guy Vickery, Ray Longmore, Barbara Miller

Minutes of 2023 EGM & Matters Arising

The minutes of the EGM held on 20 January 2023 were signed as a true record and there were no matters arising

Officers & Trustees Reports

Richard Hall (RH) referred the meeting to the Officers' Reports filed with the meetings papers.

He gave thanks to the committee and to Sarah Moseley and Allison Webb at BGU for getting the Society back to screenings at The Venue. The Society is hopeful of returning to The Venue for a 14-film further season in September but, due to organisational changes at BGU, no firm agreement has yet been reached. A meeting will be held shortly between LFS and BGU to discuss dates, hiring costs and possible changes to staffing of the bar.

John Rossington (JR) commented on the accounts to May 2023, saying that the screenings at the Terry O'Toole Theatre had broken even but a small loss was made due to insurance and website hosting fees. Due to the large take-up of membership for the current season the Society is likely to increase its reserves by between two and three thousand pounds in the current year. The Society now has the ability to view bank statements online and to make electronic payments. As the previous safeguard of having every cheque signed by two committee members is no longer available, the trustees will have a role in auditing the operation of the bank account going forward.

Tony Butcher (TB) referred to the membership numbers being back to pre-Covid levels and to the increased average attendance at screenings – up from 154 per film to 185. The current season was split in two with only the pre-Christmas films announced in advance due to the poor availability of films last year. This no longer seems to be an issue, but the intention is to continue with this split-season model to ensure that films will be as up-to-date as possible.

The meeting was then opened up to the members for questions:

Kathryn Mullen: how to join for the summer season at TOTT – Sue Firth said this would be announced by email and on the Society website

Jonathan Killin: how the new screen came about – TB said the condition of the screen was raised with BGU, who applied for and were awarded a grant which they used to replace the screen in January

Ray Longmore: what Jim Broadbent does as patron and whether he provides any finance – RH said there was no monetary support, he simply takes an interest and lends the Society his name

Andrew Francis: the possibility of having sub-titles for English language films – RH said this would be considered

Jane Bullimore: can there be more 18 certificate films shown – TB said that the certificate of a film was not focused on when selecting the programme but it would be borne in mind

New Committee Members & Trustees

The Society had put out an appeal to see if anyone wanted to join the committee or become a trustee, but no one had come forward. RH said he does have one person to speak to who made an enquiry but they are not currently a member of the Society

Election of Officers

Jonathan Killin proposed and Les Dicker seconded the re-election of Richard Hall as chair and the members voted unanimously in favour.

David Howard proposed and Jonathan Killin seconded the re-election of John Rossington as treasurer and the members voted in favour. There was one abstention.

Ivor Davey proposed and Cathryn Hall seconded the re-election of Sue Firth & Tony Butcher as joint secretaries and the members voted unanimously in favour.

Election of Committee

Linda Hall proposed and Ivor Davey seconded the re-election of the existing committee en bloc and the members voted unanimously in favour.

Election of Auditor

JR said that as the Society's turnover is too small for the Charity Commission to require an independent audit of the accounts, he proposed that no auditor be appointed and the trustees be left to ensure the accuracy of the records through spot checks. The trustees would have the right to call for an independent audit if they thought fit. David Brook seconded this proposal and the members voted in favour. There was one objection.

Any Other Business

Maureen Geddis proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work in keeping the Society operating and securing a return to the Venue, which was endorsed by a round of applause from the members.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm